

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

The Applicants originally submitted Claims 1-14 in the application. In the present response, the Applicants have amended Claims 1-7 and 9-14. Accordingly, Claims 1-14 are currently pending in the application.

I. Formal Matters and Objections

The Examiner has objected to Claims 2-4 and 9 as containing informalities. In response, the Applicants have amended Claims 2-4 and 9 to correct these inadvertent errors and appreciate the Examiner's diligence in finding and bringing these errors to their attention.

II. Rejection of Claims 1, 6-9, 12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §112

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 6-9, 12 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention. In response, the Applicants have amended the pending claims to comply with §112, second paragraph. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner withdraw the rejection and allow issuance thereof.

III. Rejection of Claims 1, 2 and 6-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102

The Examiner has rejected Claims 1, 2 and 6-14 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 5,129,002 to Tsuboka. The Applicants respectfully disagree in view of amended independent Claim 1.

Tsuboka relates to pattern recognition of voice. (*See* column 1, lines 10-15.) Tsuboka fails to disclose calculating a correction item for an adjustable bias based on **each** new observation used in recognizing a signal as recited in amended Claim 1. On the contrary, Tsuboka discloses collecting a set of training utterances to calculate a fixed set of HMM parameters. (*See* column 6, lines 4-5, and Claim 4.) Furthermore, the Applicants fail to find where Tsuboka discloses updating an adjustable bias by adding the correction item (calculated based on each new observation) to the adjustable bias.

Therefore, in view of the present amendment, Tsuboka does not anticipate independent Claim 1 and Claims dependent thereon. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the §102 rejection with respect to Claims 1, 2 and 6-14 and allow issuance thereof.

IV. Rejection of Claims 3, 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103

The Examiner has rejected Claims 3, 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Tsuboka in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,662,160 to Chien. The Applicants respectfully disagree in view of amended Claim 1.

As discussed above, Tsuboka fails to disclose each element of amended Claim 1. Tsuboka also fails to suggest each element of amended Claim 1 since Tsuboka relies on updating parameters based on a set of training utterances that are collected. Chien has not been cited to teach or suggest elements of Claim 1 but to disclose elements of the above dependent claims. As such, the cited combination of Tsuboka and Chien does not provide a *prima facie* case of obviousness of Claim 1

and Claims dependent thereon. Accordingly, the Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to withdraw the rejection of Claims 3, 4 and 5 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) and allow issuance thereof.


V. Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, the Applicants now see all of the Claims currently pending in this application to be in condition for allowance and therefore earnestly solicit a Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-14.

The Applicants request the Examiner to telephone the undersigned attorney of record at (972) 480-8800 if such would further or expedite the prosecution of the present application. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, credits or overpayments to Deposit Account 08-2395.

Respectfully submitted,

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